



SENATOR  
**BILL HARDIMAN**

***E-Hardiman Herald***



*Chair, Families & Human  
Services Committee  
Appropriations Committee;  
Chair, Family Independence  
Agency, Commerce Labor  
& Economic Development,  
Capitol Outlay,  
Higher Education*

## **HARDIMAN HERALD NOVEMBER**

### **HOME HEATING**

With the daylight hours getting shorter and temperatures dropping I know that higher home heating costs are of concern to everyone. Projected energy price increases of 40 percent or more have many families ready to take action to hold home heating costs down.

Some homeowners will spend to save - replacing the heating system, upgrading windows or adding insulation to attics or walls to make their homes more energy efficient. New federal tax credits for certain home energy improvements installed in 2006 and 2007 will help make these projects more cost effective and affordable.

However, many families aren't to accommodate big out-of-pocket expenses. Fortunately, homeowners can still save energy and money by making a few changes. To help get the most from your home heating dollars, keep these tips in mind:

- Stay comfortable but dial down. Each degree below 72 F reduces heating use by 2 to 3 percent
- Caulk and weather-strip around windows and doors to reduce air leaks and save up to 10 percent on the energy bill.
- Check heating ducts for air leaks
- Close vents and doors in unused rooms
- Install storm windows or fasten clear plastic over single-pane windows to stop drafts and retain heat
- Clean or change furnace filters once a month

If high energy costs swamp the family budget leaving you unable to pay your energy bill on time, contact your utility company as soon as possible. Do not wait for a shut-off notice. Seniors and low-income households may qualify for home heating help through a number of state, community and private programs. For information on energy assistance and more home heating tips, please feel free to contact my office or you can also download the Energy Savers guide at [www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/tips/](http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/tips/).

## **HARDIMAN'S SB365 TO BE SIGNED BY GOVERNOR NOVEMBER 17**

On Thursday, November 17, Governor Granholm will hold a formal bill signing ceremony for Senator Hardiman's SB365. This legislation will rename the State Treasury Building to the Richard Austin Treasury Building.

The senator's proposal would rename the building, located near the corner of Allegan and Walnut streets, which now houses the executive offices and the elections division of the Secretary of State's Office, among others. About half of the building's space is used by the Secretary of State's Office.

"Richard Austin was a unique public servant in our state's history," Hardiman said. "He was the longest serving Secretary of State. He was a gentleman and was always dedicated to the citizens of Michigan. The renaming of this building in his honor is a testament to his distinguished career."

Austin, who died in 2001 at the age of 87, represents a number of firsts for African Americans in Michigan. He was the first black secretary of state, serving from 1971 to 1994 as a Democrat, as well as being Michigan's first black major state officeholder. In 1941, he became the first black certified public accountant in Michigan.

Before becoming secretary of state, Austin served as Wayne County's auditor, and before that had been the first black candidate for mayor of Detroit. He also participated in Michigan's 1961 constitutional convention that drafted a new state constitution.

## **SB88 PASSED OUT OF THE SENATE UNANIMOUSLY AND NOW HEADS TO THE HOUSE**

Senate Bill 88 seeks to permit and regulate the out-of-pocket costs for co-payments, coinsurance, and deductibles for enrollees of health maintenance organizations. This legislation has recently passed the Senate unanimously and is now awaiting consideration before the House Health Policy Committee.

Senator Hardiman hopes that this bill would prevent the worst sort of cost-shifting: from insurance to no insurance and reliance on state taxpayers for expensive care such as emergency rooms for routine visits.

## **SENATOR HARDIMAN REMEMBERS ROSA PARKS**

"Last month we lost a courageous and inspiring person. Rosa Parks was a woman of strength and compassion. Though she was famed for her refusal to give up her seat to a white man on an Alabama bus in 1955, it is the result of that courage that our nation will be forever indebted".

Hardiman went on to say, "Her stance put into motion the civil rights movement without which, many of us would not be able to lead the lives we currently lead. The Montgomery Bus Boycott led to court decisions that changed the face of society. Through our lives, the lives of our children and grandchildren, we will continue to feel the effects of her stand 50 years ago. Rosa Parks will continue to be a hero, an icon and a true inspiration."

## **HARDIMAN HONORS HENRY PAIDEIA ACADEMY PRINCIPAL**

Senator Hardiman honored Ruth Jones before the State Senate earlier this month. She was recognized for her dedication to education and work in the Grand Rapids community. With her guidance and compassion, the Henry Paideia Academy went from one of the worst schools in the district to a school that is recognized nationwide. The academy has since been recognized in magazines and educational journals as a model school.

"I continue to be impressed and touched by her compassion and commitment to the Grand Rapids community," Hardiman said. "I am honored to recognize her before my colleagues. She is an extraordinary woman from whom we can all learn something."

Grand Rapids Public Schools Superintendent Bert Bleke attended the Capitol ceremony and paid tribute to Jones.

"Ruth continues to be a blessing for not only for the children and parents at Henry School, but the entire community," Bleke said. "She has touched and changed hundreds of lives."

## **REMEMBERING THE MEN AND WOMEN OF OUR ARMED FORCES**

On November 11 we remembered with gratitude the veterans who answered our nation's call to duty continuing the pursuit of peace and freedom at home and around the world. It is an honor to join with the rest of the nation in saying thank you for your service.

I hope that you all received the E- Hardiman Herald Special Veterans Edition for information on legislation that may be of interest to our veterans.

## **HAPPY THANKSGIVING**

It is my hope that you will all be able to spend the Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends. I am grateful to be able to spend the holiday with my family and am thankful not just on Thanksgiving but everyday for the blessings in my life.

I wish you a very happy Thanksgiving and safe travels over the holiday.

## **SENATOR HARDIMAN DISTRICT OFFICE HOURS**

Senator Hardiman will be holding monthly district office hours the first Monday of each month from 10:00am - 11:30am throughout the 29th district. Be sure to talk to the Senator at these upcoming office hours:

- Monday, December 5, 2005 Sandy's Donut House, 2040 Leonard NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504
- Monday, January 9, 2006, Red Hot Inn, 3175 Leonard St. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525

Senator Hardiman will hold this time each month so constituents of the 29th district have an opportunity to speak to him about any questions or concerns they may have regarding state issues. You can also contact Senator Hardiman via his toll-free number: 1-866-305-2129 or visit Senator Hardiman's homepage to set-up a meeting outside of the district hours,

[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/hardiman](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/hardiman)

Senator Hardiman will have a cell phone collection box available with him when he holds District Office Hours. Again, this donation will go to the victims of domestic violence. If you have a cell phone to donate, please stop by district office hours. Together we can help the victims of domestic violence, one step at a time

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

The Hardiman Herald is designed to provide residents and organizations with a timely update of Senator Bill Hardiman's activity in Lansing. If you have any questions, please contact Senator Hardiman's office.

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